

Henry Baldwin to Andrew Jackson, April 13, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

HENRY BALDWIN TO JACKSON.

Philadelphia, April 13, 1832.

Dear Sir, I received the enclosed letter from Mr Lacock last evening. I think the course proposed by him is a very proper one and that it will have a better effect to procure from him the desired information than by an *exparti* statement.¹ You will observe his remark in the latter part of his letter which alludes to Mr Munro. it will therefore be unnecessary to put any questions to Mr Lacock touching any information desired from him.

¹ In his letter, Mar. 12, 1832, Lacock said: "What I stated to you in relation to the Johnny Rhea Letter, was at your request, and I authorized you to mention my knowledge of the letter to Prst. Jackson for your justification. you have done so, and no doubt he is perfectly satisfied in relation to you. and it was this object, and this only that induced you to ask for the information you received from me, and communicated to the President. But the President by his letter has a different object in view. he wishes to justify himself, and convict J. C. Calhoun of duplicity and incinserity. You are therefore no longer concerned in the result, the ground is changed intirely and the President and V Prst alone interested. Standing as I do politically opposed to both I cannot volunteer *exparte* in favor of either. If however the President will send the Interogatories contained in his letter to you, and designed for me, To J C Calhoun and direct him to examine them, and put others himself if he thinks proper, I shall then answer such interogatories fairly fully and explicitly, confining myself strictly to what relates to the parties and to them only. There is no consideration that shall induce me to disclose the knowledge of facts, I receivd from those not now

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before the public. The course above suggested is the only one to which I could assent to have my name used in this controversy.”

This is now a fair opportunity of procuring unquestionable evidence of all the matters necessary to elucidate the first History of the Seminole persecution of 1819. You know what the answers will be in substance and when they are given after notice of the questions to J. C. Calhoun no one can question their correctness or doubt their effect.

Yours with esteem